

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 as follows (see the accompanying "marked up" version pursuant to § 1.121):

1. (Amended) A nonwoven fabric-laminate comprising:

(A) a rigid layer of an entanglement-based nonwoven fabric; and

(B) a bulky layer of a bulky nonwoven fabric having an apparent density lower than that of said rigid layer,

wherein the entanglement-based non-woven fabric is derived from merely-entangled nonwoven fabric, the average of the longitudinal tensile strength and the transverse tensile strength of the merely-entangled nonwoven fabric being not less than 150 N/50 mm width.

2. (Amended) The nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 1,

wherein an apparent density of said rigid layer is less than 0.15 g/cm³.

3. (Amended) The nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 1,

wherein a thickness of said rigid layer is 0.8 mm or more.

4. (Amended) The nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 1,

wherein a difference between the apparent density of said rigid layer and the apparent density of said bulky layer is not more than 0.14 g/cm³.

5. (Amended) The nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 1, wherein said rigid layer contains thermally-fusible fibers, and said entanglement-based nonwoven fabric in said rigid layer is fused with said thermally-fusible fibers.

6. (Amended) The nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 1, wherein said bulky layer contains thermally-fusible fibers, and said bulky nonwoven fabric in said bulky layer is fused with said thermally-fusible fibers.

7. (Amended) The nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 1, wherein said rigid layer and/or said bulky layer contain profile fibers and/or hollow fibers.

8. (Amended) The nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 1, wherein substantially all constituent fibers of said rigid layer are polyester fibers, and substantially all constituent fibers of said bulky layer are polyester fibers.

9. (Amended) The nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 1, further comprising a laminated surface layer.

10. (Amended) An automotive internal trim panel into which the nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 1 is shaped.

11. (Amended) An automotive internal trim panel into which the nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 2 is shaped.

12. (Amended) An automotive internal trim panel into which the nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 3 is shaped.

13. (Amended) An automotive internal trim panel into which the nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 4 is shaped.

14. (Amended) An automotive internal trim panel into which the nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 5 is shaped.

15. (Amended) An automotive internal trim panel into which the nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 6 is shaped.

16. (Amended) An automotive internal trim panel into which the nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 7 is shaped.

17. (Amended) An automotive internal trim panel into which the nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 8 is shaped.